

MAGID-5

16 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Secure Long Distance Electrical  
Transmission of Documents and Pictures

1. During the course of MAGID deliberations on the Relationships between Production and Service Units, we discussed briefly a proposal that seems to cut across several of our scheduled projects. This memo is intended to prompt further Agency consideration of the various alternatives for near-instantaneous transmission of photography and manuscripts between Headquarters and outlying Agency buildings. Specific recommendations are contained in paragraph 5.

2. Electronic transmission of printed materials could facilitate fuller use of the service units and production offices (e.g., OBGI) located away from Headquarters. Substantive papers could be coordinated more quickly. Service requests (e.g., to FBIS [redacted]) could be sent quickly and responses received expeditiously. Such available communications would solve some of the problems of being located away from Headquarters. The FBIS teletype connection and the LDX hookup with NPIC are steps in this direction, but they provide limited service to a very few outlying facilities.

3. Our concept is a document/photograph sending and receiving network which would connect Headquarters with the Agency buildings in Rosslyn, [redacted] and the Chamber of Commerce building. Obviously, such an arrangement involves most CIA Directorates. Even if limited to DDI offices, the funding proposals would involve planning and budgeting by the Office of Communications, DDM&S.

4. There are a number of alternative transmission arrangements already available or currently being developed. These seem to fall into four categories:

-- Long Distance Xerography. Material passed through a machine at one location; duplicate photocopy available at a second location.

-- Closed TV System. TV pictures transmitted between buildings. A hard copy of a given TV picture can be made. TV can be used in conjunction with secure telephone connections. The USIB Information Handling Committee recently conducted an experiment with this type of system.

-- High Speed Teletype-like Printer. Material from tape at one location (including MTST tapes) transmitted to distant locations. Certain of these devices would have capabilities for near-instantaneous reorganization of material.

-- Images via Phone. Certain devices very recently developed would allow ordinary (or secure) telephones to be used as the conduit for the electronic transmission of images.

Our preliminary explorations indicate that such devices vary in cost widely, but that some of them are not particularly expensive, in terms of comparison with other machines (e.g., MTST's) widely used within the Agency.

5. MAGID recommends that the DDI Management Staff be asked to conduct a preliminary study of the feasibility and desirability of connecting Agency buildings by devices allowing the near-instantaneous transmission of printed materials. With your approval, the study could be tabled at the CIA Management Committee; presumably, it then would be referred for action to the inter-Directorate "communications requirements working group."\* We would expect that the proposals ultimately developed for decision by the Management Committee would take into account all the expertise available to the Agency, including the experience of the USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee.

\*The working group is tasked with determining the information and digitized data communications requirements of the Agency and, as appropriate, the Intelligence Community